



Newsletter January 2019

**Celebrating 13 years
and 26 bursary students**

**A Fund for Education in
Malawi in Memory of
Linda Nelson 1954 –
2006**

Message from the Trustees

This is our second Newsletter to everyone who has helped us or expressed an interest in the Charity. Linda's Fund was set up in 2006 to improve educational provision for the 600 pupils of Mulanje Mission Community Day Secondary School in Malawi, through bursaries and school projects. Girls have equal access to the funds as boys. Mulanje School is partnered with Fortrose Academy on the Black Isle in Scotland.

The aim of this Newsletter is to show what has been achieved with your help over the last year and what current activities are taking place. Please do let us have any feedback.

Charity News



"My name is Two Gweta from Mulanje Mission. I just want to thank you because my life is going to change in so many ways." Two is Studying Auto mechanics in 2019

It is 13 years since the Charity started and in that time we have had 7 streams of bursary students including a new one starting in January 2019.

Since the start of Linda's Fund in 2006 26 students have been awarded bursaries for the following subjects.

Teacher training	1	Hairdressing	1
Electronics	1	Motor vehicle maintenance	6
Bricklaying	4	Plumbing	2
Electrical Installation	4	Accounting	3
Agriculture and Rural studies	2	Human Resources	1
Welding	1		

All the courses have entailed the students living away from home.



Bursary News



Bursary students meeting
June 2018



Fortrose Hall.

Students receive payment for accommodation, course and exam fees and an initial allowance of £80 to help with safety equipment, stationary, text books and course equipment. With many courses now requiring computers we have also started to part fund computers for some students up to £150.

Most courses run for 2 years (4 terms) and some have an additional year when the students are given practical training in a company. Occasionally students take a further year of the subject to a higher level. In any one year we can be funding up to 8 or 9 students. On finishing the majority have paid employment or have started their own businesses. During our 2018 visit to Malawi we interviewed several of the students and one of their stories is included in this newsletter. Some videos of the students are also on www.lindasfund.org.uk

2018 saw no new students starting but 3 students were accepted by colleges for 2019.

Good luck to our New Students starting in 2019!

Two Gweta	Auto Mobile Mechanics
Joanna Manyozo	Human Resources
Austin Chalimba	Welding Fabrication

Continuing students (all in 3rd Year) are

Alice (Stella) Chisangan	Plumbing
Paul Thomas	Motor Vehicle Maintenance
Timothy Kasimidwa	Electrical Installation



The School Hall completed in 2015.



Teachers house under construction.

Project News

The School Hall (now called Fortrose Hall) continues to be well used by the school and the community.

We have recently donated £1000 as part of co-funding two new teacher houses. The project now has roof and windows and is awaiting final funding in 2019 for the internal fitout.

A Government funded girls hostel with a capacity of over 200 is near completion at the school to help encourage girls to attend school and not have to walk up to 10miles a day .

We have tried to obtain some funding to improve the school library facilities.

The school is looking for future funding for classrooms and further teachers housing.



Business Start-ups and Tools

We obtained funds and also had tools donated to help bursaries start-up their businesses. More are required and costs are shown below

£60 bought hairdressing equipment

£60 bought goats/chickens for students who studied Agriculture

£80 bought electricians' tools

£100 bought bricklaying tools

£120 bought plumbing tools

£1500 could pay for a start-up training course in Mulanje

We would love to try and provide these and computer equipment to students as a matter of course. **If you would like to donate tools or money specifically for tools or computers, or to find out other ways you can help, do please get in touch with the Charity. We can also provide a list of required tools for various courses.**

The students undertook to try and pay back the cost of tools into the fund over 5 years after starting work.



Loveness Paseli studied Hairdressing and was given start-up funding for salon equipment.

2018 Malawi Trip

In June 19 Fortrose Academy pupils visited the Mulanje Mission school and each student raised £200 for Linda's Fund bursaries. The school Head teacher Lovemore Manyola organised several cross cultural events and a school debate. The pupils also had the opportunity to meet with past, present and future bursaries and listen to their stories and also to spend time with their school partners and visit their families..

We hope that Fortrose Academy will visit again in 2021.

Videos of two of the bursaries are included on the website at www.lindasfund.org.uk



Fortrose students in Mulanje



Mulanje Mission Community Day Secondary School



Student Profile

I am Louis from Malawi, I am a sixth born child from a poor family of seven children. My father was a gardener to a house near our village. He managed to pay my secondary school fee till I completed. He was unable to pay for me at college level because it was very expensive according to his salary. I was totally hopeless that I could proceed my education to another level.

Linda's fund bursary came and sent me to a boarding college to gain technical skills. I went to Comboni technical college in Blantyre where I studied Electrical Installation for three years. I enjoyed my college life with good exam results.

I have completed my course and now am working as an electrician in our local community as Malawi is now facing a challenge of unemployment among youths.

Special thanks to Linda's fund for the wonderful bursary, it has transformed my life from hopeless.

Stay blessed. Louis



Finances

Course and accommodation fees have increased from approximately £250 a year in 2008 to currently £700 a year. All UK funding goes to Malawi with no costs in UK (apart from bank charges).

Our yearly funding in 2017/18 was £4800 and donations were £5100. The fund maintains a balance to allow students to complete courses but we are close to that figure now as costs and demand have grown. Linda's Fund is run by a small group of volunteers including teachers and family in Fortrose. A Malawi committee, which disperses the funds, includes the Headteacher as Chairperson, teachers and parents. The Fund has charity status in the UK and over the years has distributed over £62,000 between projects and bursaries. This money has been raised by generous donations from individuals, sponsored events, pupils fundraising and company donations. The long standing link between Fortrose Academy and Mulanje Mission continues to flourish and be supported in both communities.



Louis Mbingwani one of our 2014 bursaries.



The link between Fortrose Academy and Mulanje Mission continues to flourish

Finally

Thank you for your interest in the charity and its work in Malawi, that is helping to improve education in one of the many community schools and giving opportunities and hope to its students.

If you wish to make a donation to the Fund this can be done from the Donations page on our website at www.lindasfund.org.uk

Or by post to

**The Treasurer
Linda's Fund
Fortrose Academy
Academy Street
Fortrose
IV10 8TW**